



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁶:

H04L 9/32

A1

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 97/08869

(43) International Publication Date:

6 March 1997 (06.03.97)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB96/00859

(22) International Filing Date:

27 August 1996 (27.08.96)

(30) Priority Data:

95113489.9

28 August 1995 (28.08.95)

EP

(34) Countries for which the regional or
international application was filed:

117234

22 February 1996 (22.02.96)

AT et al.

IL

(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, IL, JP, KR, MX, NZ, SG,
US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR,
GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

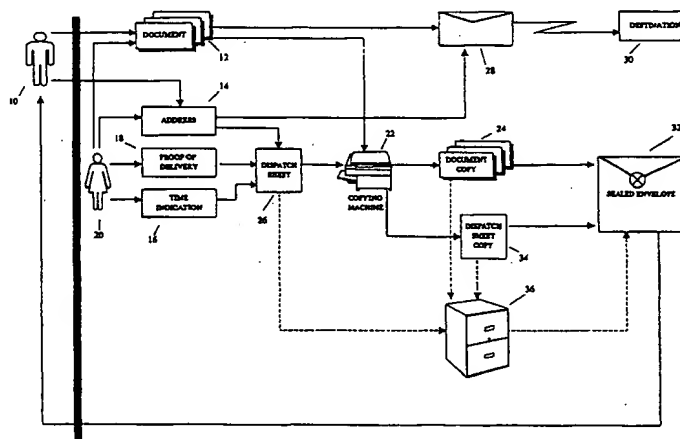
Published

With international search report.

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTHENTICATING THE DISPATCH AND CONTENTS OF DOCUMENTS



(57) Abstract

Apparatus and method for authenticating that a sender has sent certain information via a dispatcher to a recipient is disclosed. The method includes the steps of: (a) providing a set A comprising a plurality of information elements a1, ..., an, said information element a1 comprising the contents of said dispatched information, and said one or more information elements a2, ..., an comprising dispatch-related information and comprise at least the following elements: a2 - a time indication associated with said dispatch; and a3 - information describing the destination of said dispatch, and wherein at least one of said information elements is provided in a manner that is resistant or indicative of tamper attempts by said sender; (b) associating said dispatch-related information with said element a1 by generating authentication-information, in particular comprising a representation of at least said elements a1, a2 and a3, said representation comprising a set of one or more elements, each comprising a representation of one or more elements of said set A; (c) securing at least part of said authentication-information against undetected tamper attempts of at least said sender. The dispatch relates either to transmission or to manual delivery. The apparatus implements the operations of the method.